



News from Congressman

Tom Lantos

**12th Congressional District of California
San Mateo/San Francisco**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 21, 2003**

**FOR INFORMATION CALL
Lynne Weil (202) 225-6735**

Lantos Advocates Normalizing Trade With Armenia

Washington, DC – Congressman Tom Lantos (D-CA) today urged Congress to restore normal trade relations to the Republic of Armenia to recognize improvements in its human rights record.

Lantos, the ranking Democratic member of the House International Relations Committee and co-chair of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, spoke on the House floor to endorse the legislation known as H.R. 528 because “graduation from the restrictions of Jackson-Vanik will contribute to economic growth in Armenia.”

Lantos noted that since 1989, while it was still a part of the Soviet Union, Armenia has been receiving waivers to the Jackson-Vanik regulations regarding trade, and that as an independent country Armenia has provided even further grounds for receiving waivers. Lantos said, “It’s time to make this process permanent.” Not to do so, he added, would be “a disservice to the Republic of Armenia and to the Armenian diaspora.”

###